

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07

AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /104 W

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R 221324Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6028

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAU ET UG

SUBJECT: AMIN VISITS ETHIOPIA

1. UGANDAN PRESIDENT AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU), FIELD MARSHAL IDI AMIN, VISITED ADDIS ABABA AUGUST 18-20. BAGPIPES SHRILLED AS AMIN DESCENDED FROM HIS PLANE UPON ARRIVAL, A STUNT THAT STILL HAS AFRICAN DIPLOMATS HERE SMIRKING. ALTHOUGH HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE OAU SECRETARIAT AND MEET WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, AMIN ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH EPMG LEADERS AND
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VISITED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR

AFRICA (ECA).

2. AT THE OAU, AMIN MET WITH OAU ADMIN SEC GEN WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, REVIEWED PROCEDURES AND OAU DECISIONS DATING BACK TO 1963, AND ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO ACTIVATE THE PRESENTLY DORMANT AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND FOR THE "COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE (AFRICAN) CONTINENT." HE SAID THAT THE FIRST USE OF THIS MILITARY FORCE WOULD BE TO BRING ORDER TO TROUBLED ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO ONE HIGH-RANKING OAU SOURCE, AMIN'S VISIT WAS THE FIRST TIME AN OAU CHAIRMAN HAD TRAVELED TO ADDIS FOR THE EXPRESS OF CONFERRING WITH THE SECRETARIAT. THE SECRETARIAT STAFF, HE SAID, WAS PLEASED WITH THE ATTENTION AMIN PAID DIRECTLY TO IT AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S BOUNDLESS ENERGY, SERIOUSNESS AND EAGERNESS TO LEARN.

3. AMIN ALSO MET WITH ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ADEBAYO ADEDEJI AND THE ECA CABINET. HE INFORMED ADEDEJI OF SOME MAJOR UGANDAN PROBLEMS, E.G., GRAIN STORAGE AND TRANSPORT, AND REQUESTED ECA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SOLVE THEM.

4. THE UGANDAN PRESIDENT MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFARI BANTI, AND PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN, MAJOR MENGISTU AND LT. COL. ATNAFU, TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS. AMIN IS RUMORED TO HAVE OFFERED ETHIOPIA HIS PERSONAL GOOD OFFICES TO HELP RESOLVE PROBLEMS IN ERITREA AND WITH SOMALIA. IN CONTRAST TO THE IMPRESSION HE LEFT WITH THE OAU SECRETARIAT, AMIN IMPRESSED AT LEAST ONE MOFA OFFICIAL AS VIGOROUS BUT ERRATIC, AMIN, HE SAID, REPEATEDLY CHANGED HIS MIND AND SCHEDULE, APPARENTLY TRYING TO PACK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE INTO HIS SHORT VISIT. IN ADDITION, MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF THE UNDERSTAFFED MOFA PROTOCOL OFFICE, AMIN'S NEW BRIDE AND SEVERAL CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED THE FIELD MARSHAL.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AND THE HEADACHES AMIN PROVIDED MOFA OFFICIALS, THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT -- LEARNING ABOUT OAU AFFAIRS -- APPEARED TO BE ACHIEVED. MOST REPORTS INDICATE THAT LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN BILATERAL UGANDAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.
HUMMEL

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